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ROCK ISLAND, ILL.
ARGUS

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CPYRGHT

Don't Prejudge Green Berets

Major Thomas E. Middleton and seven other Green Berets, held in South Vietnam on investigation of planning and executing the murder of a Vietnamese citizen, claim through their attorney that the victim was a double agent, working for the U.S. but actually serving the Communists; in other words, a double-crosser.

We don't believe for a second that they would willingly or carelessly execute someone who was supposed to be helping their side. Let's wait for the facts.

If there ever was a situation that was

made for double agents it is Vietnam, where spies for the Communist cause turn up in the most surprising circumstances.

The double agent is a familiar figure in history and fiction. One had an important role in Dickens' "A Tale of Two Cities." The late Allen Dulles, when he was head of the Central Intelligence Agency, said he couldn't give assurance that the Russians didn't have someone in the CIA.

Don't discount the story told by Green Beret defendants until all the facts have been produced.